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RMR

FROM: BERLIN
 TO: Secretary of State
 NO: 110, JULY 22, 6 PM

7m

Control: 1517
 Rec'd: JULY 22 1959
 DEPT OF STATE
 1035 PM 12 10

OFFICE
 OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
 MESSAGE CENTER

SENT DEPARTMENT 110, BONN 101, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 26,
 PARIS 25, GENEVA 42, POLAD USAREUR 16, MOSCOW UNNUMBERED.

GENEVA FOR HILLENBRAND, PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, CINGEUR
 THURSTON AND WEST.

REF: OURTEL 98 TO BONN, 105 DEPT

FOLLOWING WRITTEN PROTEST RE INCIDENT DESCRIBED REFTEL SENT
 SOV COMMANDANT BY USCOT TODAY:

BEGIN TEXT

A MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT INVOLVING AN AMERICAN MILITARY TRAIN OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER 1930 HOURS ON EVENING JULY 20. AT THIS TIME AT POTSDAM RAILROAD STATION THE AMERICAN TRAIN COMMANDER OBSERVED SEVERAL ARMED GERMAN UNIFORMED PERSONNEL ATTEMPTING BOARD TRAIN. AT LEAST ONE CASE TRESPASS ACTUALLY OCCURRED BEFORE TRAIN COMMANDER ORDERED VIOLATORS TO DESIST.

I STRONGLY PROTEST THIS UNWARRANTED AND UNPRECEDENTED INTERFERENCE WITH AN AMERICAN MILITARY TRAIN AND REQUEST THAT YOU TAKE IMMEDIATE AND DECISIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF SUCH ACTIVITIES.

END TEXT

ACTING BRITISH AND FRENCH POLADS AGREED WITH OUR CONCLUSION THAT STRONG WRITTEN PROTEST BE MADE IN ORDER DISCOURAGE, IF POSSIBLE, FURTHER INCIDENTS THIS TYPE AND INHIBIT SOV/GDR EFFORTS DESIGNED: (1) ESTABLISH PRINCIPLE INSPECTION ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS; (2) RIGHT OF EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS INTERFERE.

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PERMANENT

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Authority NND 87746

BG 10/16

CAA

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-2- 110, JULY 22, 6 PM, FROM BERLIN.

WITH ALLIED MILITARY TRAIN TRAFFIC, AND (3) RIGHT OF EXERCISE
OF "CONTROL FUNCTION" IN PLACE OTHER THAN CHECKPOINT.

BRITISH AND FRENCH ACTING POLADS ALSO CAN FIND NO RECORD THAT
THEIR MILITARY TRAIN TRAFFIC PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED INCIDENTS
SIMILAR THAT DESCRIBED REFTEL.

ACTING FRENCH POLAD WHEN INFORMED ABOVE INCIDENT YESTERDAY
REPORTED INCIDENT INVOLVING FRENCH MILITARY TRAIN NIGHT OF
JUNE 16. WESTBOUND FRENCH TRAIN MADE ROUTINE TRAFFIC HALT
AT MAGDEBURG - SOVZONE. TWO RUSSIAN OFFICERS APPROACHED
TRAIN AND ASKED BOARD TO SEARCH FOR TWO EAST GERMANS. FRENCH
REFUSED THEM ADMITTANCE. AFTER TEN MINUTES IMPASSE, GERMAN
CIVILIAN TRAIN PULLED INTO STATION, WHEREUPON SOV OFFICERS
APOLOGIZED AND SAID EAST GERMANS WERE ON TRAIN JUST ARRIVED.
FRENCH TRAIN THEN COMPLETED JOURNEY WITHOUT INCIDENT. IN
VIEW SOV OFFICERS' APOLOGY, FRENCH DID NOT PROTEST TO SOV
AUTHORITIES.

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Anthony
by BG